

Kansas Taxpayers Network

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Renatta Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street, NW - Suite 1200
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Dear Ms. Hesse,

I am writing in support of the proposed Microsoft antitrust settlement.

As Executive Director of the Kansas Taxpayers Network, I have followed this case closely and am embarrassed and distressed that our state attorney general has been a party to it. Like the tobacco lawsuits of the recent past, this is a case that has turned out to be not only a colossal waste of tax dollars, but also a detriment to yet another private industry.

Regulation through litigation seems to have been the underlying theme in this case and those responsible for stoking the embers are none other than Microsoft's competitors.

My opinion in this case is not from that of a member of the Microsoft fan club or from that of an enemy for its competitors. My beliefs stem from those of a protector of taxpayers and overseer of the spending of the taxes they're forced to pay. In that position, I do not support the role of the federal or state government in shaping the appropriate market share between opposing companies in any industry. This is not the idea behind the "rule of law," as I understand this concept from the framers.

All things considered, the proposed settlement is not only fair for all parties involved, but the best thing for taxpayers everywhere as it finally puts the case to rest. No more tax funds should be wasted on this litigation. As you review this settlement, I urge you to consider the positive national impact of ending this unfortunate litigation.

Sincerely,


Karl Peterjohn